

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

Please cancel claims 9, 10, 13-17, 19-21, 23-25, 27, 29-39, 45 and 46.

1. (Withdrawn) Isolated nucleic acid encoding a Siah-Mediated-Degradation-Protein (SMDP) and/or SFC-Complex-Protein (SCP), or a functional fragment thereof.
2. (Withdrawn) Isolated nucleic acid encoding Siah-Mediated-Degradation-Protein (SMDP) and/or SFC-Complex-Protein (SCP), or functional fragments thereof, selected from:
  - (a) DNA encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID Nos:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 or 14, or
  - (b) DNA that hybridizes to the DNA of (a) under moderately stringent conditions, wherein said DNA encodes biologically active SMDP and/or SCP, or
  - (c) DNA degenerate with respect to either (a) or (b) above, wherein said DNA encodes biologically active SMDP and/or SCP.
3. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein said nucleic acid hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the SMDP and/or SCP coding portion of any of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13.
4. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid is substantially the same as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13.
5. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid is the same as that set forth in any of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13.

6. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein said nucleic acid is cDNA.

7. (Withdrawn) A vector containing the nucleic acid of claim 2.

8. (Withdrawn) Recombinant cells containing the nucleic acid of claim 2.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled).

11. (Withdrawn) An antisense-nucleic acid capable of specifically binding to mRNA encoded by said nucleic acid according to claim 2.

12. (Withdrawn) A kit for detecting the presence of the SMDP and/or SCP cDNA sequence comprising at least one oligonucleotide according to claim 10.

Claims 13-17 (Canceled).

18. (Withdrawn) A method for expression of a SMDP and/or SCP protein, said method comprising culturing cells of claim 8 under conditions suitable for expression of said SMDP and/or SCP.

Claims 19-21 (Canceled).

22. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising an amount of the antisense-nucleic acid according to claim 11 effective to inhibit expression of a human SMDP and/or SCP and an acceptable hydrophobic carrier capable of passing through a cell membrane.

Claims 23-25 (Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying nucleic acids encoding a mammalian ~~SMDP and/or SCP~~ Siah-1 $\alpha$ , said method comprising:

contacting a sample containing nucleic acids with an oligonucleotide ~~according to claim 9~~ comprising nucleotides 274-321 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said contacting is effected under high stringency hybridization conditions of 50% formamide, 5X Denhardt's solution, 5X SSPE, 0.2% SDS at 42°C, followed by washing in 0.1X SSPE and 0.1 % SDS at 65°C, and identifying ~~compounds~~ nucleic acid molecules which hybridize thereto and which complement encodes Siah-1 $\alpha$  protein.

Claim 27 (Canceled).

28. (Withdrawn) Single strand DNA primers for amplification of SMDP and/or SCP nucleic acid, wherein said primers comprise a nucleic acid sequence derived from the nucleic acid sequences set forth as SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13.

Claims 29-39 (Canceled).

40. (Withdrawn) A method of identifying a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein that modulates a cellular phenotype, said method comprising:

(d) expressing, in a cell, a chimeric nucleic acid comprising a member of a nucleic acid library fused to nucleic acid encoding a protein degradation binding domain of a protein member of the ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation family; and

(e) screening said cells for a modulation of said phenotype.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, wherein the phenotype is selected from the group consisting of: cell proliferation, cell survival, cell death, cell secretion, and cell migration.

42. (Withdrawn) A chimeric nucleic acid identified according to claim 40.

43. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid library comprising a plurality of chimeric nucleic acids, wherein each chimeric nucleic acid comprises an SMDP and/or SCP or functional fragment thereof.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40 wherein said nucleic acid encoding a protein degradation binding domain is selected from the group consisting of Sia-1 $\alpha$ , SIP-L, SIP-S, SAF-1, SAF-2, and SAD, or functional fragments thereof.

Claims 45-46 (Canceled).

Please add the following new claims.

47. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the oligonucleotide is no more than 500 nucleotides in length.

48. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the oligonucleotide is at least 100 nucleotides in length.

49. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the oligonucleotide is at least 200 nucleotides in length.

50. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the oligonucleotide is at least 300 nucleotides in length.

51. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the oligonucleotide is at least 400 nucleotides in length.

52. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the oligonucleotide is labeled.

53. (New) An oligonucleotide probe comprising nucleotides 274-321 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the oligonucleotide is no more than 500 nucleotides in length.

54. (New) The oligonucleotide probe of claim 53, wherein the oligonucleotide is at least 100 nucleotides in length.

55. (New) The oligonucleotide probe of claim 53, wherein the oligonucleotide is at least 200 nucleotides in length.

56. (New) The oligonucleotide probe of claim 53, wherein the oligonucleotide is at least 300 nucleotides in length.

57. (New) The oligonucleotide probe of claim 53, wherein the oligonucleotide is at least 400 nucleotides in length.

58. (New) The oligonucleotide probe of claim 53, wherein said oligonucleotide probe is labeled.